

The Gilded Age

AMH 3223

Spring 2026, 3 Credits

Course Description

The Gilded Age was one of the most contentious and volatile periods of American history. This class will cover major ideas, processes, conditions, and changes that shaped the late nineteenth century.

Instructor Information

Name: Dr. Paige Glotzer
Email: paigeglotzer@ufl.edu
Office: Keene-Flint 204
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 11:45 AM - 1:45 PM

Meeting Time and Location

Meeting Times: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:40-11:30 AM
Meeting Location: Keene-Flint 111

Materials, Supplies, and Assigned Reading

There are no additional supplies required for this class, nor are there any additional costs. All assigned reading will be available for free. Reading is a combination of primary and secondary sources. There is no assigned textbook, but Professor Glotzer is always happy to provide supplemental reference material if you want additional context or more depth.

Complete assigned reading by the start of class on Mondays.

Grades

Grade Distribution

- Attendance 20%
- Participation 15%
- Process Diagram 15%
- Debate Scene 15%
- Popular and Material Culture Presentation 15%

- Final Essay 20%

Graded Components

Full descriptions of each graded component and rubrics for them are available on Canvas.

Rounding

All non-whole number grades between .01 and .49 will be rounded down to the nearest whole number. All non-whole number grades .50 and .99 will be rounded up to the next whole number. For example, 92.49 is a 92. 92.50 is a 93.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
E	59-0

Policies and Information

Absence and Lateness

Attendance is crucial for creating a successful classroom community. You may have two “free” unexcused absences, which will be dropped from your final grade when Professor Glotzer calculates it at the end of the semester. Note that excused absences are just that: excused, without penalty. Absences related to physical health, mental health, well-being, and emergencies are excused with no documentation needed, but Professor Glotzer must be notified (by you or an advocate) or she has no way of knowing whether an absence falls into an excused category. You do not have to share specifics.

Lateness is defined as arriving after Professor Glotzer is finished taking attendance. You may have two free “lates,” which will be dropped from your final grade when Professor Glotzer calculates it at the end of the semester. Otherwise, you will receive half credit for attendance that day. If you have an issue that will cause chronic lateness, such as a class across campus immediately before this one, please let Professor Glotzer know so your grade is not affected.

AI Policy

The use of AI such as Grammarly and ChatGPT is an evolving and complex issue. As AI becomes a more widely used part of our lives, you might be considering using it to produce part or all of an assignment. Do not do this without discussing it with Professor Glotzer beforehand. Again, you are required to discuss any plans to use AI with Professor Glotzer *in advance* of assignment submission. This includes, but is not limited to, using AI for translation, writing, summarizing, comparing sources, research, presentations, outlining, analysis, locating resources, producing citations, or generating ideas. Remember that this is a *process-based* class. If Professor Glotzer cannot trust that she's seeing *your* thought process playing out in an assignment, the assignment becomes irrelevant to both you and her.

When in doubt, talk with Professor Glotzer in advance. Failure to abide by this policy might result in academic honor code violations, failing the assignment, or failing the class.

Accommodations

Professor Glotzer is committed to creating a class where everyone can feel welcomed, included, and ready to learn. Disability will not be stigmatized in this class and should not be treated as something “bad” or “less than” in general. Accommodations are all about acknowledging that default university and workplace settings have been created with a narrow vision of who might use them; accommodations help alter those short-sighted decisions to be more reflective of human diversity. If you have or think you may have a disability (e.g. attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical) speak directly with Professor Glotzer and/or contact the UF Disability Resource Center to get started.

Late Assignment Submission

All assignments turned in after the deadline will automatically lose 5 points. They will continue to lose 5 points every 24 hours. However, Professor Glotzer likes to be generous with extensions because she wants to give you a chance to turn in your best effort.

Links to College and University Policies and Procedures

- Attendance: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>
- Honor Code: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>
- Course Evaluations: <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>

Links to Resources

Links for academic success and wellbeing are listed on our class Canvas.

Important Dates

- Monday, January 19th: No class
- Wednesday, February 18th: Process Diagram Assignment due, 11:59 PM
- Wednesday, March 11th: Debate Scene Assignment due, 11:59 PM

- Monday, March 16th – Friday, March 20th: No class
- Monday, April 6th and Wednesday, April 8th: Popular and Material Culture Presentations
- Monday, April 27th: Final Essay due, 11:59 PM

Schedule

Complete assigned reading by the start of class on Mondays.

Unit 1: Introduction

Week 1 Studying the Gilded Age

Dates: January 12, 14, 16

- Reading: Worth Robert Miller, “The Lost World of Gilded Age Politics,” *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 1, no. 1 (Jan. 2002): 49-67.

Unit 2: Labor and the Economy

Week 2 The Great Strike of 1877

Dates: January 21, 23

- Reading: Sylvia Gilett, “Camden Yards and the Strike of 1877” from *The Baltimore Book: New Views of Local History*, Elizabeth Fee and Linda Shope eds, (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1989), 1-15

Week 3 The New South

Dates: January 26, 28, 30

- Reading: Henry Grady, “The New South” (Excerpted from The Complete Orations of Henry Grady); Tera Hunter, *To 'Joy Our Freedom: Southern Black Womens' Lives and Labors After the Civil War* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997), Chapter 4.

Week 4 Big Business

Dates: February 2, 4, 6

- Reading: Political cartoon compilation; Excerpt of Theodore Roosevelt’s First Annual Address [Theodore Roosevelt's First Annual Address](#) (Beginning with “During the last five years”)

Week 5 Labor, Media, and Violence

Dates: February 9, 11, 13

- Reading: [Arthur Spies - Eight Hour Movement](#); William C. Oates, George Ticknor Curtis and T. V. Powderly, “The Homestead Strike,” *North American Review* 155 (Sep., 1892):

355-375; Troy Rondinone, "Guarding the Switch: Cultivating Nationalism during the Pullman Strike," *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 8, no. 1 (2009): 83-109.

Unit 3: Ideas

Week 6 Gilded Age Citizenship and the Law

Dates: February 16, 18, 20

- Reading: Roscoe Conkling, Oral arguments in *San Mateo County v. Southern Pacific Railroad*, 116 U.S. 138 (1882); Excerpts of majority opinion and dissenting opinion from *United States v. Wong Kim Ark* 693-705; 721 (beginning with the paragraph "But there were others")-732; Excerpt from Susan Frelich Appleton, et. al., "Forward: The Curiously Minor Role of *Minor v. Happersett*," *Washington University Law Review* 102 (2024): 1675-1682 (ending with paragraph "Against this background...")
- Assignment: *Process Diagram* due Wednesday, February 18th at 11:59 PM

Week 7 Radical Farmers and Other Rural Responses to the Gilded Age

Dates: February 23, 25, 27

- Reading: Grover Cleveland's Veto of the Texas Seed Bill; The Omaha Platform of the People's Party; Dispatch from a Mississippi Colored Farmers' Alliance

Week 8 Making Senses of Capitalism: Competing Ideologies

Dates: March 2, 4, 6

- Reading: William Graham Sumner on Social Darwinism; Henry George, *Poverty and Progress*; Andrew Carnegie, *The Gospel of Wealth*; Lucy Parsons on Women and Revolutionary Socialism

Unit 4: Everyday Life

Week 9 Popular Culture

Dates: March 9, 11, 13

- Reading: Look at five examples of [Gilded Age sheet music](#); Listen to at least one song from the [Ragtime playlist](#); listen to at least one song from the [Early Tin Pan Alley](#) playlist
- Assignment: *Debate Scene* due Wednesday, March 11th at 11:59 PM
- Friday: Meet in Smathers 100 for a Special Collections visit.

Week 10 Spring Break

Week 11 How the Wealthy Lived

Dates: March 23, 25, 27

- Reading: Excerpts of Eric Homberger, *Mrs. Astor's New York: Money and Social Power in a Gilded Age* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002), Chapter 5; Browse exhibits, collections, and items from [Gilding the Gilded Age: Interior Decoration Tastes and Trends in New York City](#)
- Wednesday: Meet at the Harn. Class will run from 10:50 to 11:40 to allow time to get to the museum.

Week 12 How the Other Half Lived

Dates: March 30, April 1, April 3

- Reading: Excerpts of Jacob Riis, *How the Other Half Lives*; Kathy Peiss, *Cheap Amusements: Working Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century New York* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1986), Chapter 3
- Date TBD. Wednesday or Friday: Meet at the Matheson History Museum. 513 East University Ave.

Week 13 Presentations and Final Essay Writing Time

Dates: April 6, 8, 10

- Reading: None
- *Assignment: Popular and Material Culture Group Presentations Will Take Place in Class on Monday and Wednesday. Friday's class is dedicated to final essay preparation. Activities can include brainstorming, outlining, drafting, seeking peer feedback, and consulting with Professor Glotzer.*

Unit 5: Changing Times

Week 14 The US and the World

Dates: April 13, 15, 17

- Reading: Paul Kramer, "The Darkness That Enters the Home: The Politics of Prostitution during the Philippine-American War," in *Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North American History*, Ann Laura Stoler, ed. (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006): 366-404.

Week 15 The End of the Gilded Age

Dates: April 20, 22

- Reading: None

Assignment: Final Essay due Monday, April 27th at 11:59 PM